



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Source Control for Problem Pollutants – *Legislative and regulatory options*

– At the CASQA meeting on May 13, a stormwater permittee raised the question of whether the State Board could assist the stormwater community by supporting better coordination between state agencies and possibly sponsoring legislation to address constituents such as copper and zinc. There is some precedent for this approach. In 1994, a bill was proposed to allow Regional Boards prohibit the sale, use, and discharge of copper-containing root control compounds used in sewers. It was finally determined that a more appropriate approach would be to have the Department of Pesticide Regulation issue regulations, which it did in 1995, to ban the sale and use within nine Bay Area counties of copper root control products.

Copper in urban runoff is generally considered to result from the copper linings used in some brake pads. (More definitive information on this source is being developed by the Brake Pad Partnership: <http://www.suscon.org/brakepad/index.asp>) Zinc is another common constituent of concern and tires are likely a major source. Zinc oxide is used to accelerate curing during rubber manufacturing. Zinc in runoff also results from zinc-coated gutters and downspouts connected to storm drains.

Lead is another problem pollutant in runoff. Much of the lead is residue remaining from the era when gasoline contained tetra-ethyl lead. An ongoing source of lead, however, is lead weights used to balance tires. An estimated 13% of the weights are released from the tires and may be abraded into lead dust in the roadway. Alternatives have been introduced and include iron weights as well as internal tire balancing methods. (Unfortunately, some alternative weights are made from zinc or a zinc/copper/aluminum alloy.) Many imported cars now contain non-lead weights as foreign manufacturers implement programs to phase out lead. An environmental group has recently petitioned U.S. EPA to force U.S. manufacturers to also find alternatives. In addition, they want EPA to prohibit lead weights in the aftermarket where 80% of the lead weights are used. The petition is based on Section 2605 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). TSCA gives EPA the authority to control any chemical that presents an “unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment.” Control can range from a labeling requirement to an outright ban. Ecology Center Petition: http://www.leadfreewheels.org/TSCA_LeadWheelWeights.pdf

LA Metals TMDLs – *Change in the implementation schedule* – NewsFlash 05-23 discussed the TMDLs being developed by the Los Angeles Regional Board to decrease the loading of toxic metals in the LA River and Ballona Creek. During the hearing an errata sheet was passed out which changed the dates of two TMDL milestones. The construction industry has seven years (rather than five) to submit the results of BMP effectiveness studies. Final compliance based on implementation of approved TMDLs is required in nine years

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/meetings/tmdl/tmdl_pollutant_metal.html#05_0328

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>